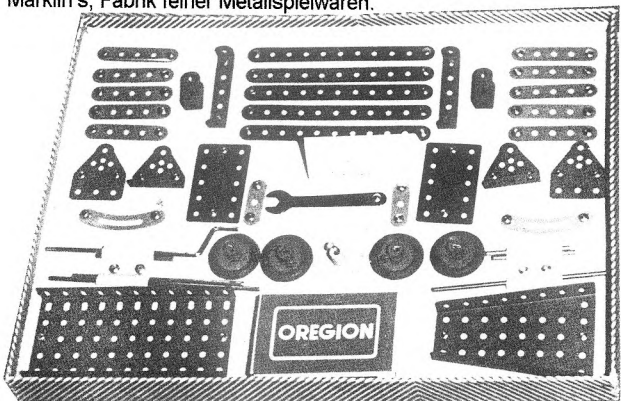


the 1940s.

**MINITECH** There is an entry in MCS for this French system which was made by Joma, and dates from the 1950 to 1960 period. No details are given except that the holes are 2mm Ø, at 9.5mm pitch, and the only part shown is a Flat Girder with 2 rows of staggered round holes. The manual cover above shows Plates with staggered holes but with no indication of how the braced structure is made.

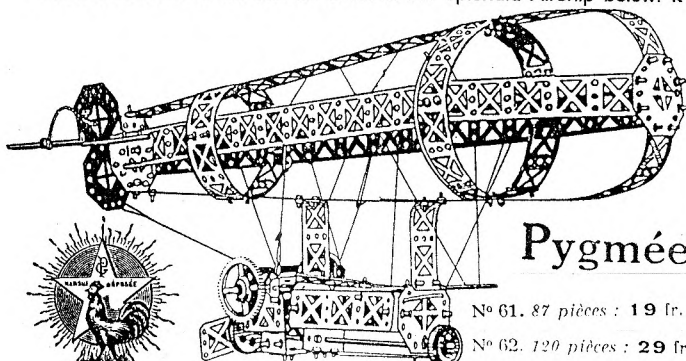


**OREGION** This system is believed to be Canadian but nothing is known of its history. A No.99 set, and the label on its lid, are shown below. Many aspects of the set remind one of MÄRKLIN, the layout of the label for example is quite like some prewar Märklin ones, and the boy is the same or very similar. Oddly, the text is partly in French and partly in English, and the English part (which contains 2 spelling mistakes) mentions that 47 'types' can be made from boxes 99-104. Those set numbers were used by Märklin from after WW2 until 1957. The slogan, Manufacture de jouets fins en métal, is the equivalent of Märklin's, Fabrik feiner Metallspielwaren.



Many of the parts too have a MÄRKLIN look to them but there are some differences - I don't recognise the Spanner; there's no large centre cutout in the Trunnions; the holes in the 5\*3h Plate aren't MÄRKLIN pattern; nor are the Tyres, and nor is the shape of the ends of the Sector Plate. The contents don't correspond to any MÄRKLIN set either, - in general they are nearer to a MÄRKLIN 100 than a 99, but both of those contain Flexible Plates larger than 5\*3h. Incidentally the boss that may be visible in the middle of the Pulleys/Tyres belongs to an 8h Bush Wheel.

**PYGMÉE** A model from this French system is included in MCS but a little more detail can be seen in the splendid Airship below. It



N° 61. 87 pièces : 19 fr.

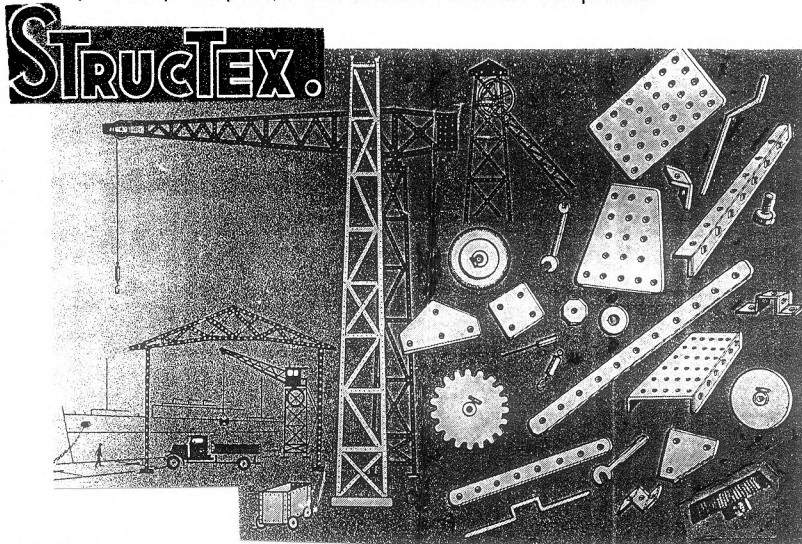
N° 62. 120 pièces : 29 fr.

N° 63. 148 pièces : 49 fr.

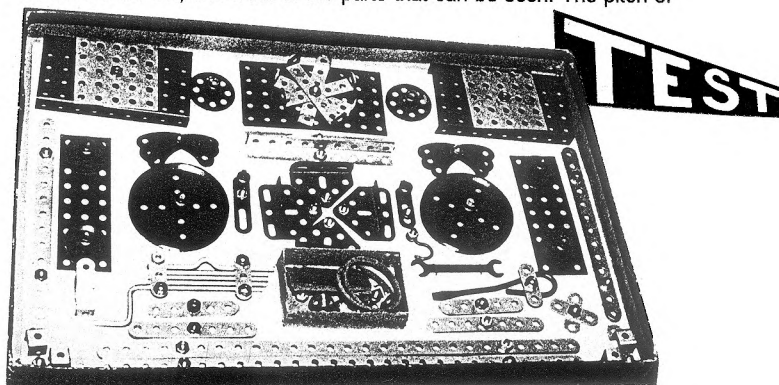
comes from a 1920 ad leaflet and the main parts are various lengths of Braced Girder and the Octagonal Plates, which can be joined at right-angles by 3h long A/Gs. And that's it really apart from the Wheels and that 4-spoke Gear, though I can't quite see what its function is.

3 sets are listed, Nos.61, 62 & 63, and they were packed in enamelled steel boxes. The ad in MCS shows Nos.51, 52 & 53, in the same packaging, at the same prices, and with the same number of parts, 87 in the 51/61 to 148 in the largest set.

**STRUCTEX** This quite large Belgian system from the 1950s was mentioned in 15/426. Some of the parts are shown below, notice the Bevel at bottom right, which may not be very clear, and what is that small octagonal part under the Sector Plate? A Nut? The part of the model at the top includes a 5-spoke Wheel, if it can be seen, possibly built up from separate parts, and its diameter scales at 6 hole pitches.



**TEST** This was a French system from the 1950s and below a photo of the known set, and a list of the parts that can be seen. The pitch of



the holes isn't known but is probably at least a little less than 1/2". The corners of the Plates and A/Gs look to have sharp corners but those of the other parts appear well rounded. The only slotted holes are in the Trunnions and the Slotted Cranks.

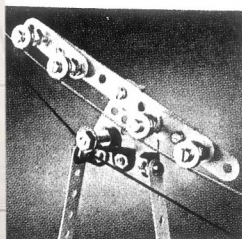
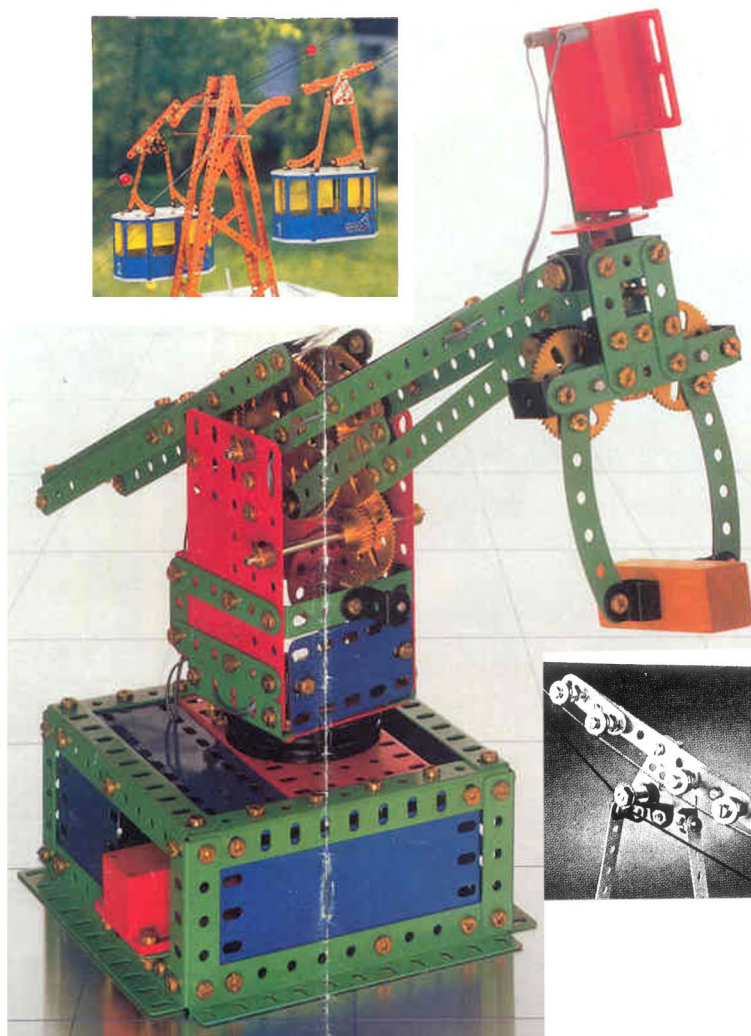
- Strips 3,5,7,13 & 27h long. Curved Strips probably about 5h long but with only the centre and end holes. 1\*5\*1 DAS. Angle Brackets. Double Bent Strips. What may be a 3\*1\*3 Double Bracket (below the LH 9\*3 Plate).
- 9h A/Gs. 9\*5h Flanged Plates flanged on the long sides. Perforated Plates with 9\*5, 9\*3 & 5\*5 holes. Trunnions and Flat Trunnions with side and 3 slotted holes.
- 8h Bush Wheels. Pulleys like M22 (on the 9\*3h Plates), and M19b but without the slots.
- Wire Screwdriver, Spanner, Axles. A Crank Handle with 90° bends. A Crankshaft. Largish hex Nuts (holding the parts in place). What look like Slotted Cranks, 3 & 4h long with the outer 2 holes slotted together. A Wire Hook. Also in the small box are 2 rubber? Rings which wouldn't fit the Pulleys and look too small to be Driving Bands.

**STEEL TEC at The Entertainer** Since before Xmas, Salisbury's branch of The Entertainer has had a good selection of STEEL TEC sets at reasonable prices. Some examples: a Harley-Davidson set with motor (#950712, 545 parts) at £16.99; USS Enterprise with sound & lights (#950992, 410 parts) at £19.99; Road Wreckers (262 parts including motor, #950682) at £12.99; Speedster sets at £4.99 (6 sets, all #700502, with from 58 to 79 parts); & the Power Wrench at £4.99.



disappointing for a set that cost so much, though it does contain 4 motors (albeit 6v).'

• 'I also have the **Cable Car Set** and it makes up into a very attractive model that works quite well, and follows real practice in some respects, with steel cable, well articulated pulleys that move nicely over the saddle on the intermediate tower, etc.' [The Robot Set, #1007 was mentioned in 2/16, and the Cable Car, #1057, from the mid-1980s, in 10/266. In neither case was there an illustration but the ones below



will give an idea. The Car is made from special parts, and the body is shown blue with a white roof, and yellow tinted

windows; all the Strips and Girders are orange.

7. From Don Redmond. • The **EZY-BILT** Contrate is distinctive with a very rounded edge ( $\frac{1}{8}$ " rad.) and the teeth actually cut into the curvature. It is nickel with a brass boss.

• On **DÖCO** (15/413), it was displayed in a 1920 Canadian Centre for Architecture exhibition at Montréal, and the catalogue describes it as 'a wood and metal system; split-pin rivet assembly; includes design book; box 10.5\*37\*24.9cm; parts: bars 24.7\*0.8cm, clamps 0.8cm, discs 6.8cm; punch press 8\*34.3\*13.9cm.'

• The **STRUCTO** Worm (see 15/424) is a rather crude looking item of the same alloy (zinc?) as the Gears, and with noticeable flash and mold marks. The teeth look rather chewed but it has probably had much use.

• In a mixed lot, a yellow plastic Wheel, with a square-section rubber Tire, 1.5" o.d., marked **BILDIT**. That's a new name but was it a constructional system? The bore appears to have been drilled out to about  $\frac{3}{16}$ ".

8. From Jeannot Buteux. • The French patent for **SPEDICON** (see 17/470) is No.923760, and it was granted in 1947.

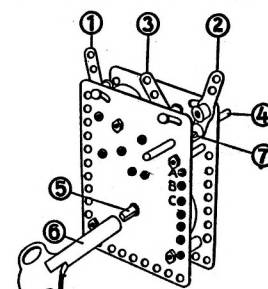
• **MAC et NICK** (17/472) was also patented, by a M.Cosneau in 1948, No.936145. [No equivalent UK patent is known.]

• Manuals in French have turned up for **STRUCTATOR** and **KLIPTIKO**.

• A **PYGMÉE** (16/448) set has been found for the first time: it's in a metal box and includes a complete manual.

9. Following the notes on the **MÄRKLIN** Chassis in 17/482, Josep Bernal sent a photocopy of a 4-page Leaflet in French (Refs: Ta 07 33 m & F. M446) showing the parts in the Nr.1105L **Motor Truck Body** Set, and how to assemble them onto the Chassis. The details of the parts have been included in an Extra MCS Sheet.

10. Thomas Keel sent a photocopy of the Instruction Leaflet, in German, for the **MIGNON C/W Motor** Nr. 250 (right), which was described in 10/262. The holes A,B,C in the side-plates allow a 12t Pinion on the output shaft, 4, to mesh with the other 3 Gears in the system, or their positions can be reversed for higher speeds.



Nr. 1 = Schnell- und Langsamgang  
Nr. 2 = Abstellhebel  
Nr. 3 = Vor- und Rückwärtsgang  
Nr. 4 = Arbeitswelle  
Nr. 5 = Aufzugswelle  
Nr. 6 = Aufzugsschlüssel  
Nr. 7 = Arbeitswellenrad mit Gewindestift.

**EXTRA MCS SHEETS** The Sheets listed here are available at 15p per Sheet plus postage. That makes £4.65 for all 31 Sheets.

MCS Amendments, List No.6 [1]

AKRON: X1.1,2/6,5,5a [2]

ENGINEERO: X1.2,4,5,6 [2]

E.Z.: X1.1,2,4,5 [2]

FAC: X1.1, [1]

FAC [a]: X1.3/4,3a/4a,5 [2]

FAC [b]: X1.6,6a [1]

FAC [c]: X1.2,3,4-4l,5-5b,5c/6,6a,6b [9]

INSTRUCTO: X1.1,2,4,5 [2]

KONSTUKTOR [10]: X1.1,2,4,5 [2]

KONSTUKTOR-MEKHANIKA [2]: X1.1,4/6,4a/6a/7,5 [2]

KONSTUKTOR SHKOL'NIK: X1.1,2,4/6,4a/6a,5 [3]

MAKUMAL: X1.1,5 [1]

MÄRKLIN: X2.3a/4b,5 [1]

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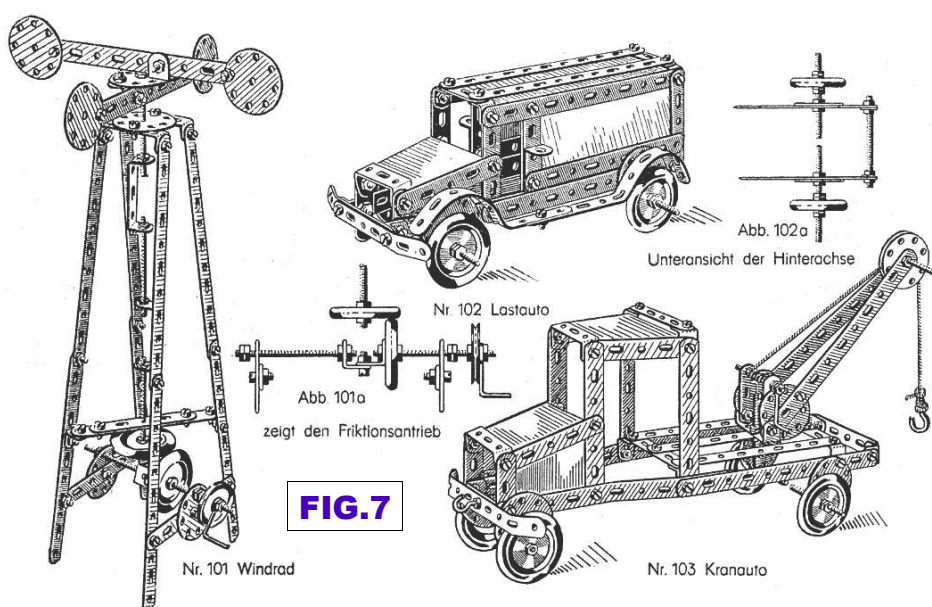


Part/Set	01	1	2	2a	3
Strip 3h		2	4	2	6
Strip 5h		4	8	2	10
Strip 7h		2	4	0	4
Strip 9h		2	4	0	4
Strip 11h		4	8	0	8
Strip 19h		0	0	4	4
Flat Bracket		0	0	4	4
Angle Bracket		4		4	
Double Bracket		0	0	4	4
DAS 1*3*1h		2	4	0	4
DAS 1*5*1h		0	0	2	2
Flanged Plate		0	0	1	1
Perf. Plate		0	0	1	1
Wheel Disc		4	8	0	8
Pulley		2	4	0	4
Rubber Ring		2	4	0	4
Screwed Rod, 50mm		4		0	
Ditto, 90mm		0	0	4	4
Ditto, 110mm		0	0	2	2
Axle Stop		0	0	2	2
Handle Crank		1		0	
Hook		1		0	
Bolt, 6mm				18	
Bolt, 12mm				5	
Bolt, 23mm				5	
Nut				46	
Screwdriver				1	1
Spanner				1	1

**FIG.6**

The **Nr.3** (Fig.1) has a more elaborate lid than the 2a but the parts are packed in the same way with the red box for the small parts under the blue Flanged Plate, and the Tools on top of the 3\*7h Plate. The quantities in the Table are the parts that can be seen in the box. No A/Bs can be seen and they are no doubt in the red box.

the Nr.3. The quantities in Fig.6 are as found.



**FIG.7**

The **Nr.2a** is in a rather flimsy plain cardboard box, 25½\*17½\*2cm, with the Fig.5 label, the same size as on the Nr.01. The parts are clipped, or held with elastic cord, to a yellow backing board, with the N&B & Screwed Rods in a red lidded box similar to the one in

**The MODEL LEAFLETS** The Nr.1's PR is 'BR 649 S' and it is one sheet folded once to 151\*214mm in portrait format. The front has an introduction, then some basic constructions, and it ends by suggesting migration to DUX for even better models. Inside and on the back are line drawings of 45 reasonable little models from Nr.1 Wegweiser (Signpost) to Nr.45 Hobelmaschine (Planing Machine). Also on the back the Nr.2 models mentioned earlier and they are shown in Fig.7, at their original size.

The Leaflet with the Nr.2 looks about the same size and its front appears to cover the same ground as above. The Nr.3 Leaflet (Fig.1) is about the same size too but has a different style front and may be more than a single folded sheet.

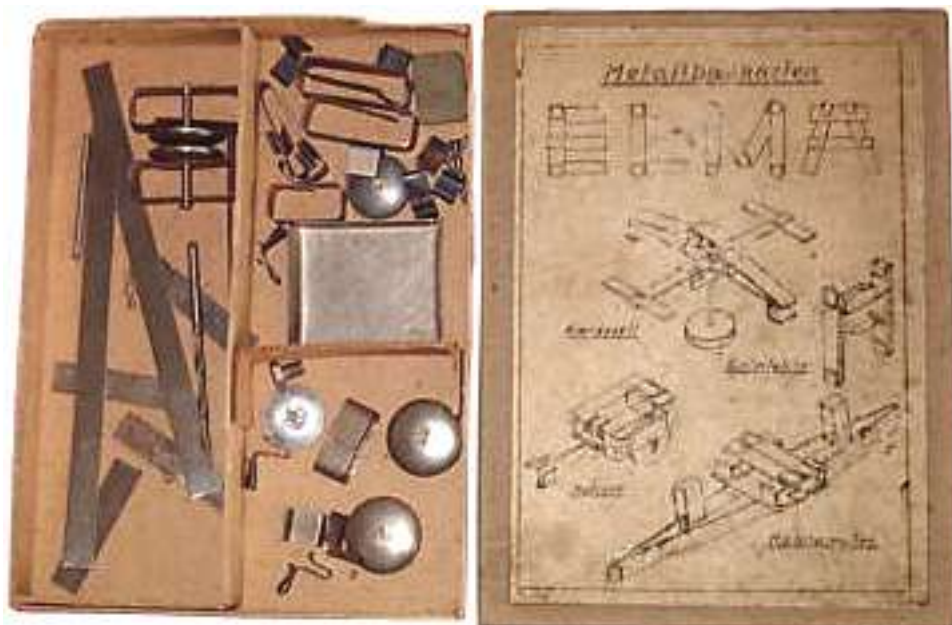
The 2 models shown in MCS, a Digger & a simple weight-driven Pendulum Clock (with just an escapement and a single hand on the end of the scape wheel shaft), are much more ambitious than the Nr.2 models above, and although there is nothing to say that they are Nr.3 models, they could I think be made with the parts in the Nr.3 set.

PITT: S2

OSN 41/1258

### Snippet. 'New' System:

**ELMA** The set right was offered on German Ebay and was said to be from the 1950s. The model leaflet pasted inside the lid is headed 'Metallbaukasten ELMA', so it will be assumed that ELMA was made in Germany. Leaving aside the probable foreign parts (a twist drill, a formed disc that looks aluminium, the bolt above it, and various other oddments), the remainder remind one strongly of the French system CONSTRUC, described elsewhere in this Issue. The Strips, the formed Shapes, the Clips, and the Tray all look identical. But the Pulley Discs are unlike any CONSTRUC part. There is no indication as to whether the Clips and Shapes were factory made, or if a Jig was included in the Set. The models don't look like any of those in CONSTRUC's Notice Explicative.



ELMA: S1

OSN 41/1258